Distribution System. There is no proposal under the Government's consideration to introduce dual pricing system for essential commodities under the Public Distribution System.

Rise in prices of wheat and rice sold through Fair Price Shops

241. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of wheat and rice have been enhanced in Fair Price Shops with effect from 1st February, 1986; and

(b) if so, to what extent these have been enhanced and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central issue prices of rice and wheat under Public Distribution System were revised with effect from 1st February, 1986 as under:—

	Rs.	
Rice	From	To
Common . .	217·00	231·00
Fine . . .	229·00	243·00
Super fine . .	244·00	258·00
Wheat (PDS) .	172·00	190·00

The retail price of rice and wheat distributed through Fair Price Shops in various States/Union Territories is fixed by the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration after taking into account the costs of transportation, handling and incidentals etc. However, there is no uniformity in the retail prices of these two commodities in States and Union Territories. Their retail prices have increased with effect from 1st February, 1986 as a consequence of the upward revision of the central issue prices of rice and wheat. In order to reduce the mounting subsidy, the issue prices of rice and wheat have been revised so that the amount thereby saved could be used for strengthening the Plan efforts and provide further thrust in implementing the anti-poverty programmes including supply of cheaper foodgrains for tribal areas, rural works and for women and children under welfare programmes.

Closure of non-viable NTC mills

242. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down some of the non-viable mills under the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the names of these mills;

(c) when were these taken over;

(d) what was the financial position of these mills at the time of their takeover; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government thereafter to improve the situation and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The Textile Policy states that the continued operation of units, which are incapable of becoming viable, would mean a continued drain on scarce resources and such units or parts thereof may have to be closed down to prevent any further losses.

(b) No final decision has been taken regarding which mills are to be closed.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.